export of skill based and knowledge based services. The country has shown its potential in software sector which has great scope for expansion; pharmaceuticals is another sector of great potential. Recognising the importance of services. Services export was included in the Exim Policy to provide this sector the needed boost. Policy measures are continuously being taken to encourage the services sector as well as the knowledge based industries so that they are able to contribute substantially to the growth of services exports.

Industrialisation of backward areas of Goa

1884. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meta Strips Limited is setting up a big factory at Industrial Estate, Cortalim and Sancoale Village, Goa, with active support of Government financial institutions;

(b) whether the unit will help in industrialisation of backward areas of Goa in a big way since industry is a self-generating economy;

(c) whether some local organisations are protesting against setting up of this unit on false pretext of pollution; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to ensure that industrialisation is not hampered there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Flowers and Fruits

1885. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposal to increase the export of flowers and fruits to different countries;

(b) if so, the countries to which flowers and fruits are being exported at present and the total amount of foreign exchange earned by Government by exporting flowers and fruits during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the export of flowers and fruits in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the plan drawn in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government has been taking various measures constantly to boost exports of horticulture products including flowers and fruits to various export markets. Some of the measures taken by the Government to increase exports of horticulture products and floriculture products include the following:—

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion; supply of minikits, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/ Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transports units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;

(v) Grant of air freight subsidy on export of selected floriculture products and fresh fruits.

(vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified

Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing of shelf-life of perishable products such as mangoes and lychees;

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits, vegetables and floriculture products;

(ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging transport, etc.

Flowers and fruits are being exported presently to Middle East countries, Europe and South East Asia including Japan, Russia and USA. The total foreign exchange earned through the export of flowers and fruits during the last three years have been as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1996-97	304.17
1997-98	350.19
1998-99*	357.26

*Proovisional SOURCE: DGCI&S/APEDA

PSUs in Andhra Pradesh

1886. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Public Sector Undertakings/Units in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of PSUs making profit/loss separately in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, unit-wise;